

Minutes of Commission Meeting

Regular Meeting | Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 10:00 AM

Location: Coverdell Legislative Office Building
Room 606, 18 Capitol Square SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

PRESENT:

Commission Members:

Dennis Cathey, Acting Chair
James D. Kreyenbuhl, Commission Member
Eric L. Barnum, Commission Member
Allen Yee, Commission Member

Office of the Attorney General:

Christian Fuller, Assistant Attorney-General

Commission Staff:

Stefan Ritter, Executive Secretary
Robert Lane, Deputy Executive Secretary
Bethany Whetzel, Deputy Executive Secretary
Nancy Sandberg, Legal Secretary
Chris Phelps, Paralegal
Natalie Harper, Auditor
DeAngelo Hall, Videographer
Kim Greene, Court Reporter
Ewin Yap, Office Administrator

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 AM.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS:

Acting Chair Cathey introduced the two new Commissioners, Eric L. Barnum and Allen Yee.

APPROVAL OF COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes of the Regular June 21, 2018 Commission Meeting were tabled to the December meeting, since there was no quorum of members knowledgeable of the minutes

Motioned by: Acting Chair Cathey

Seconded by: Commissioner Kreyenbuhl

Vote: 4 to 0 motion carried to table

ELECTION OF NEW COMMISSION OFFICES

Election of new offices of the Commission was tabled until the March 2019 meeting due to the upcoming election.

Motioned by: Acting Chair Cathey

Seconded by: Commissioner Barnum

Vote: 4 to 0 motion carried to table

MOTION FOR ORDER DISALLOWING LOBBYIST REGISTRATIONS OR RENEWAL TO INDIVIDUALS WITH UNPAID FEES, FINES, OR PENALTIES OR UNFILED REPORTS

Motion for Order Disallowing Lobbyist Registration or Renewal to Individuals with Unpaid Fees, Fines or Penalties or Unfiled Reports was accepted in its entirety and the Order was approved and signed.

Motioned by: Acting Chair Cathey

Seconded by: Commissioner Kreyenbuhl

Vote: 4 to 0 motion carried to approve

APPEAL (MOTION TO RECONSIDER)

Motion for reconsideration was denied, however due to hardship considerations the remaining Civil Penalty is to be waived for case no. 2008-0034PC: In the Matter of Regina Thomas.

Motioned by: Commissioner Barnum

Seconded by: Commissioner Yee

Vote: 4 to 0 motion carried to deny

PRELIMINARY HEARINGS:

The following cases were heard and motioned as follows:

- 2017-0213PC: In the Matter of Gloria Thompson (RL):

The Commission reconsidered the finding previously made and upon the subsequent proof that the respondent has paid her late fees, the case was dismissed as no probable cause exists.

Motioned by: Commissioner Kreyenbuhl

Seconded by: Acting Chair Cathey

Vote: 4 to 0 motion carried as approved

The following Preliminary Hearing had requested and was granted a continuance to the next regularly scheduled meeting in December 2018 as follows:

- 2015-0050PC: In the Matter of Sharon Barnes-Sutton (RL):

The following case was moved from Preliminary Hearings to Consent Orders:

- 2017-0212PC: In the Matter of Erica Woodford (BW):

CONSENT ORDERS:

The following Consent Orders and Preliminary Hearings, which are now Consent Orders were motioned and approved to accept all as presented:

- 2017-0212PC: In the Matter of Erica Woodford (BW)

Motioned by: Commissioner Yee

Seconded by: Commissioner Barnum

Vote: 4 to 0 motion carried as approved

- 2017-0216PC: In the Matter of Bryon J. Lee (BW)

Motioned by: Commissioner Kreyenbuhl

Seconded by: Commissioner Barnum

Vote: 4 to 0 motion carried as approved

- 2017-0242PC: In the Matter of Johnny Davis (BW)
Motioned by: Acting Chair Cathey
Seconded by: Commissioner Kreyenbuhl
Vote: 4 to 0 motion carried as approved

COMMENTS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Executive Secretary Stefan Ritter gave the following reports:

- Executive Secretary Stefan Ritter requested from the Commission approval to reschedule the Regularly Scheduled Commission meeting for December from December 12th to December 19th, so that staff may attend the CLE – COGEL Conference. It was motioned and approved to change the meeting date to December 19, 2018. Acting Chair Cathey stated that staff deserves to be able to go to the conference as it contributes valuable continuing education credits, updates in procedures and networking opportunities.
Motioned by: Acting Chair Cathey
Seconded by: Commissioner Kreyenbuhl
Vote: 4 to 0 motion carried as approved
- Report on Waivers and Case Counts:
There have been sixty-six (66) Late Fee Hardship Waiver Requests received in 2018, twenty-two (22) are open and pending and forty-four (44) have been resolved, with a total of \$124,045.00 of late fees that have been waived.
As of September 19, 2018 we have 115 active cases and 30 Administrative Procedures Act (APA) cases, for a total of 145 active cases.
- Employee Update:
We have an excellent staff on the whole. We have had some turnover and had to let some people go, which means we lost a meaningful percentage of staff. Erwin, Chris, Nancy, Natalie and DeAngelo have all contributed to picking up the slack.

RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE MARY PAIGE ADAMS' SERVICE WITH THE COMMISSION

The Resolution was read and approved recognizing the service of Mary Paige Adams to the Commission. Acting Chair Cathey said that he also had served on the Judicial Nomination Committee with her and found that she was a competent, compassionate person and it was a pleasure to work with her.

Motioned by: Acting Chair Cathey
Seconded by: Commissioner Kreyenbuhl
Vote: 4 to 0 motion carried to approve

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S COMMENTS:

Christian Fuller gave an update on the status of cases pending in their office and a summary of how and why cases are sent to their office.

COMMENTS OF THE PUBLIC:

There were no public comments.

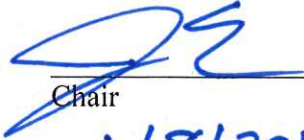
MEETING ADJOURNED:

It was motioned and approved to adjourn the meeting at 11:51 AM.

Motioned by: Acting Chair Cathey
Seconded by: Commissioner Barnum
Vote: 4 to 0 motion carried as approved

Official Minutes Statement

The foregoing Minutes for the September 20, 2018 meeting of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission were approved and adopted by the Commission at the Commission's meeting on December 19, 2018.



Chair



Date